The FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Newcastle District Committee

OF THE SOCIETY FOR

PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

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Newcastle District Committee

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PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD AT

COBOURG,

October 11*th* 1834.

PRINTED BY R. D. CHATTERTON, COBOURG, U. C.

1834.

OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT.

THE HON. AND RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Rev. J. Thompson, *Cavan,*
The Rev. S. Armour, *Cavan,*
The Rev. J. Coghlan, *Port Hope,*
The Rev. R. H. D'Olier, *Peterboro'*
The Hon. Capt. Boswell, *Cobourg,*
Thomas Ward, Esq. *Port Hope,*
The Hon. T. A. Stewart, *Douro,*
E. Barnum, Esq. *Haldimand,*
Wm. Warren, Esq. *Darlington,*
S. S. Wilmot, Esq. *Clarke.*

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The Rev. A. N. Bethune,
G. S. Boulton, Esq.

TREASURER.

Benjamin Throop, Esq. *Cobourg,*

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Robert Henry, Esq.
J. Lodge, Wilcocks, Esq.
William Falkner, Esq.
Hon. Z. Burnham,
Elias Jones, Esq.
Henry Ruttan, Esq.

And ex-officio, all other officers of the Society.

DEPOSITARIES.

The Rev. J. Grier, *Carrying-Place,*
J. Steele, Esq. *Colborne,*
J. Taylor, Esq. *Haldimand,*
B. Throop, Esq. *Cobourg,*
M. Jellet, Esq. *Port Hope,*
J. Knowlson, Esq. *Cavan,*
E. Sandford, Esq. *Peterboro',*
W. Warren, Esq. *Darlington.*

REGULATIONS.

1—That to constitute a Member of this Committee, a subscription of not less than 12s. 6d. currency, shall be required.

2—That a General Meeting of this Society do take place annually, during the Assizes for the District.

3—That the Standing Committee of this Society do meet quarterly, on the first day of the Quarter Sessions in this District.

4—That the subscriptions and donations be paid annually in advance, on or before the 24th day of December, in each year, payable to the Treasurer or Vice-Presidents.

☞ All unpaid accounts for Books are expected to be discharged (payable to the Treasurer or to the Depositaries,) on or before the 24th December in each year—remittances being then made to the Parent Society.

FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT, &c.

It is a subject of congratulation with this Committee, that this should now be the third occasion, on which, at their Annual Meetings, they have been honoured with the presence of their venerated President, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. In order to possess this gratification and advantage, the usual period of their Annual Meeting, has been in some degree protracted:—a deviation from original arrangement, which had been agreed upon at the last quarterly Meeting of the Committee, from a sense of the benefits which the personal countenance and assistance of his Lordship would confer, in forwarding the ends, which it is their object to promote.

There is the most sincere cause for thankfulness to the Almighty and Beneficent Giver of all good things, that, amidst the vicissitudes which affect all human Institutions, an Association like the present Committee—necessarily limited in its numbers, and circumscribed in its resources—should so long have continued, not merely without any failure in its operations or pros-

pects of usefulness, but with the growing evidence of success and advantage every year. Since the commencement of its operations, the sum of £302. 18. 0. Sterling, has been expended in the purchase of Books of a purely religious or moral character, and not less than 2,531 volumes of all descriptions, including a very large proportion of the Holy Scriptures, and the Book of Common Prayer, have in that period been circulated throughout the District.

To the fellow-worker with his heavenly Master, there cannot be a higher excitement to perseverance in his labours for the diffusion of the kingdom of God, than the prophecy, which—that it might as it were strike with a peculiar force, upon the hearts of those engaged in this holy cause—was spoken by the last of the prophets; that "from the rising of the sun, unto the going down of the same, the Name of the Lord of Hosts should be great amongst the heathen, and that in every place, incense should be offered unto his name, and a pure offering." But at the same time that to the eye of faith, this beautiful and cheering picture is presented, there is much to rouse the watchfulness, and the energies of Christians, in the multitude which the world still presents of those, who live as yet in the gloom of spiritual darkness, and who are strangers to the sound of salvation. Nor is it the idolatrous pagan, nor the disciples of Mahomet, who alone claim the sympathy of those who are interested and engaged in the coming of the Kingdom of Christ;—there is an enemy, who is sowing tares even amongst the good wheat—an adversary, whose unhallowed work it is, to estrange even professing Christians from the purity of the "faith, as it was once delivered unto the saints," and draw them back to the blindness and misery of

spiritual error. Against his machinations the true followers of their Lord are to be armed, and contend, and to work together with the Grace of God, in "snatching these brands from the burning." So few, especially in this infant land, are the labourers, proportioned to the vastness of the harvest, that the melancholy description, begotten certainly under far different circumstances,* may nevertheless be too faithfully applied: "Infancy comes into the world without a blessing, age leaves it without a hope; marriage scarce receives a benediction; sickness is left without consolation, the village bell calls not the poor to their weekly day of sanctity and repose; the village churchyard witnesses not the weeping train of mourners, attending the departed to their last home."

But to correct the gloom and cheerlessness of this representation, the work in which this society is engaged, will, through the blessing of God, be highly instrumental. Through the means at their disposal, they may furnish to the secluded people of the wilderness—they may disseminate amongst those, who in a strange land are sore oppressed by a spiritual famine—they may help successfully to diffuse through the cottages and hamlets which are never gladdened by the voice of Christ's Ministers and Heralds, the precious Word of God, and those other devout publications, which expound, and urge to an obedience of His revealed will.

The sales of the past year, have, upon the whole, been satisfactory; and taking into consideration the unusual scarcity of money during most of the preceed-

* The effects of the French Revolution, in 1793.

ing twelve months, the amount disposed of has even exceeded expectation. This, with the Subscriptions already paid in, have enabled the treasurer to transmit to London a Bill of £54 sterling, in part liquidation of the debt due to the Parent Society;* and there is every probability, that during the succeeding year, nearly, if not the whole of their demand against this Committee will have been cancelled. The Treasurer's account to be submitted to-day, exhibits a balance of £57. 16. 6. Currency in his hands; and we have to anticipate the immediate receipt of a large portion of the unpaid subscriptions and accounts, as well as the proposed Collection on the 12th inst. in the Church of Cobourg,† in augmentation of that balance on hand.

The following table represents a statement of the Books disposed of, either by sale or gratuitous distribution, from the date of the last Annual Report up to the present day:

1 Mant's Family Bible, 3 vols.
65 Bibles of various sizes.
56 Testaments,
110 Prayer Books,
510 Bound Books and Tracts of various descriptions.

744 Total.

The Committee's supply of Testaments and cheaper Bibles, has been almost entirely exhausted, and they purpose losing no time in procuring the necessary replenishment; but it is right to observe, that out of

*There remains due to the Parent Society this day, £76 18s Sterling.

†This collection, after an impressive sermon from the Lord Bishop, amounted to £10. 8. 4.

the Books and Tracts which the above statement exhibits, as circulated during the past year—and the Committee regard it as a matter for congratulation from all their supporters and friends—not less than 380 volumes of Tracts, and the cheaper publications, have been distributed gratuitously, or about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the whole have been so bestowed, chiefly for the use of Sunday Schools in remote parts of the District. Out of this a large proportion has been appropriated towards the Lending Library and other uses of the Cobourg Sunday School, established originally under the auspices of this Society; in part anticipation of a grant of £10 towards that specific object, which about twelve months ago was kindly offered by the Lord Bishop of Quebec. Although happily the resources and progress of this branch of the Society, do not render our acceptance of this generous grant, absolutely necessary, yet it is a manifestation of the unwearied attention of our zealous Diocesan, to every department of his exalted charge, which this Committee feel the sincerest gratification in bringing before the notice of their supporters. So anxious are the Committee to promote the circulation of those excellent Books, which their connexion with the Parent Society enables them to diffuse, that a resolution will this day be proposed, that, during the succeeding year at least, they will grant to every Sunday School, which may avail themselves of the privilege, an amount of books at cost prices, equal to twice the sum which may be raised amongst themselves for that purpose; and it affords them the truest satisfaction, to be enabled also to propose, that during at least the same period, there shall be placed at the disposal of every Clergyman within the District, a proportion of Books for gratuitous circulation, equal to double the amount

of the Collections which may be made in their respective Churches, for the general benefit of this Society. The public at large, in viewing this arrangement, will readily perceive the value, as well of such specific contributions, as of a faithful continuance of their Annual Subscriptions, which alone could enable them to make so extensive a gratuitous disposition of the books at their disposal. These publications, if widely diffused, would have the happy tendency, it is presumed, of drawing off or directing into a more legitimate channel, that taste and inclination, which is now unfortunately too generally fostered, for those publications which lead to social disorganization, political animosities, and above all to the subversion of the principles of true morality and sound religion.

To promote the diffusion of those pious and holy principles, which alone can render life's pilgrimage pleasant, and the bed of death happy, there is no instrument—as this Committee in their annual addresses to the public have often repeated—more simple and effectual, than the establishment and multiplication of those Schools which call the youth together on the Sabbath-day. In the first place its sanctified rest is thus preserved inviolate, and the legitimate appropriation is made of its holy hours, to the acquisition of that knowledge which "maketh wise unto salvation." In the prosecution of this duty a serious difficulty is to be encountered, in the indifference of many parents, to the advantages of this assembling together of their offspring on God's holy day, and a disposition in too many cases to permit them without the control of parental discipline, to adopt or neglect those privileges as inclination may direct them. But this is a trifling impediment compared to the difficulty

of procuring a sufficient number of zealous and efficient teachers, who will not grudge to God's cause their persevering exertions in this holy and improving work. The Sunday School of Cobourg had greatly revived since the publication of the last Report, in consequence of several valuable accessions in the department of teachers, combined with the advantage of School and Library books, which since that period it has possessed. Nevertheless from both the obstructions above alluded to, which, they have reason to believe, are but too general in their character, it has experienced its share of vicissitude. But notwithstanding every disadvantage and discouragement, there is a high gratification in being able to announce, that during the year ending the 5th October, the attendance at the School has averaged 30 boys and 25 girls each Sunday. With steady and zealous attention it must improve, and, through the blessing of heavenly grace, be the means of turning in many instances "the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just," and of advancing God's glory and kingdom upon earth.

With the blessing of heaven, this Committee will go on, and trust to prosper in all their useful work; and they look forward, with undiminished hope, to the persevering patronage of all those fast increasing friends to whom, under Providence, they have been mainly indebted for their past success.

By order of the Committee,

A. N. BETHUNE, } SECRETARIES.
G. S. BOULTON, }

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,

In Account Current with Benjamin Throop, Treasurer.

		Dr.		
1833.				
Nov. 1	To Cash paid Mr. Chatterton, for printing notices of Annual Meeting, Sermon, &c.,.....	£ 0	15	0
1834.				
Jan. 3	To cash advanced in aid of Sunday School repairs,.....	0	10	0
"	To Cash for Postages,.....	0	2	4
"	To Cash paid for Bill of Exchange on London, £54 Sterling,.....	64	4	0
Octr. 9	To Balance in the Treasurer's hands, inclusive of debts due to Society, and not yet collected (amount to £9 10 8).....	57	7	2
		£122	18	6

		Cr.		
1833.				
Sept. 10	By balance on hand this day,...	£63	3	11
" 19	By collection in Cobourg Church, on the 15th inst.....	10	1	0
" 23	By Do. in Port Hope Church, on the 22nd inst.,.....	3	7	7
1834.				
Sept. 7	By Cash for sales by W. Warren, Esq.....	1	12	5
" 12	By do. do. by E. Sandford, Esquire,.....	4	10	0
Octr. 9	By do. received from sales at Cobourg,.....	19	13	7
" "	By amount of subscriptions collected to this date,.....	18	0	0
" "	By Cash received for sales from M. Jellet, Esq.,...	2	10	0
		£122	18	6
Octr. 11	By balance brought down.....	£57	7	2

E. E. *(Signed)* B. Throop, *Treasurer.*

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

Lord Bishop of Quebec,	£1	5	0
Armour, Rev. S. *Cavan,*		12	6
Bancks, Wm. Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
Barnum, E. Esq. *Haldimand,*		12	6
Bethune, J. G. Esq. *Cobourg,*	1	0	0
Bethune, Rev. A. N. *Cobourg,*	1	0	0
Boswell, Hon. Capt. R. N. *Cobourg,*		12	6
Boulton, Geo. S. Esq. *Cobourg,*	1	0	0
Brown, John Esq. *Port Hope,*		12	6
Bullock, Richard Esq. *Port Hope,*		12	6
Burnham, Hon. Z. *Hamilton*	1	0	0
Burnham, John Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
Burnham, Asa Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
Butcher, R. P. Esq. *Cobourg,*		12	6
Butler, Chas. Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
Calcutt, James Esq. *Cobourg,*		12	6
Campbell, D. Esq. *Colborne,*		12	6
Chatterton, R. D. Esq. *Cobourg,*		12	6
Clark, Chas. Esq. *Cobourg,*		12	6
Clark, Benj. Esq. *Cobourg,*		12	6
Coghlan, Rev. J. *Port Hope,*	1	0	0
Covert, John Esq. *Hamilton,*	1	0	0
Crawford, W. Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
D'Olier, Rev. R. H. *Peterboro',*		12	6
Falkner, W. Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
Gilchrist, Dr. S. *Port Hope,*		12	6
Goldsmith, E. Esq. *Cobourg,*		12	6
Grier, Rev. J. *Carrying Place,*		12	6
Grover, John Esq. *Haldimand,*		12	6
Ham, George Esq. *Cobourg,*		12	6

Hare, Richard, Esq. *Haldimand,*		12	6
Hawley, Sheldon, Esq. *River Trent,*		12	6
Henderson, W. Esq. *Port Hope,*		12	6
Henry, Robert Esq. *Cobourg,*	1	0	0
Huston, J. Esq. *Cavan,*		12	6
Jellet, M. Esq. *Port Hope,*		12	6
Jones, Elias Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
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McKyes, D. Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
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Meyers, A. H. Esq. *River Trent,*		12	6
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Muchall, R. B. Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
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Rogers, J. G. Esq. *Haldimand,*		12	6
Rowe, Lieut. R. N. *Hamilton,*		12	6
Rubidge, Lieut, R. N. *Otonabee,*		12	6
Ruttan, Henry Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
Sandford, E. Esq. *Peterboro',*		12	6
Smart, David Esq. *Port Hope,*		12	6
Smith, J. D. Esq, *Port Hope,*		12	6
Sowden, Wm. Esq. *Hamilton,*		12	6
Spilsbury, Mrs. *Cramahe,*		12	6
Steele, Jno. Esq. *Colborne,*		12	6
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Stewart, Hon. T. A. *Peterboro',*		12	6
Taylor, Jno. Esq. *Haldimand,*		12	6
Thompson, Rev. J. *Cavan,*	1	0	0
Throop, B. Esq. *Cobourg,*		12	6
Townshend, Lieut. R. N. *Cramahe,*		12	6
Townshend, Mrs. *Cramahe,*		12	6
Tripp, John Esq. *Cobourg,*		12	6
Wallbridge, Elijah Esq. *Clarke,*		12	6
Ward, Thos. Esq. *Port Hope,*		15	0
Warren, Wm. Esq. *Darlington,*		12	6

White, Josiah Esq. *Hamilton*,	12	6
Whitehead, M. F. Esq. *Port Hope*,	12	6
Wilcocks, J. L. Esq. *Hamilton*,	12	6
Wilmot, S. S. Esq. *Clarke*,	12	6
Wilkie, George Esq. *Hamilton*,	12	6
Wilkins, R. C. Esq. *Carrying Place*,	12	6
Wilson, Edward Esq. *Peterboro'*,	12	6